

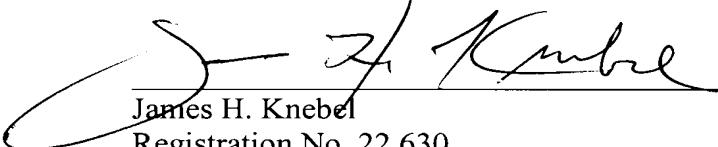
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants make no statement regarding the patentable distinctness of the species, but note that for a requirement for election to be proper, there must be patentable difference between the species as claimed. MPEP § 808.01(a). The Office has not provided any reasons or examples to support a conclusion that the species are indeed patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for election is improper, and Applicants' election of species is for examination purposes only.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon


James H. Knebel
Registration No. 22,630

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)